

# THE ADVOCATE

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1911.

## TO NEGRO FRATER- NAL SOCIETIES.

The threatened enactment of the Carr fraternal society bill will not be altogether an evil if those who were jeopardized are brought to see the urgent necessity of the Friendly Society Movement which The Advocate has proposed time and again to no purpose.

Suppose The Advocate had not discovered the nature of the bill and had not sent out the timely warning to the heads of the several fraternities, is there any doubt as to what would have happened? Is it not highly probable that we would have awakened some morning to find our secret societies unlawful combinations and ourselves violators of the law?

The Advocate proposes again, and it hopes that, unlike former occasions, it will not be as "the voice of one crying alone in the wilderness"—that the presiding officers of the grand lodges of all Negro fraternal societies in the State set in motion the machinery to adopt the plans for their protection proposed and advocated by the lamented Starks and Jones. These two men, whose untimely passing The Advocate has not yet ceased to lament, foresaw that the day of wrath which is now upon us would come sooner or later. With foresight and wisdom not to be found now among us, they sought to provide against just such dangers as we have narrowly escaped this week.

Their proposition was that the fraternal societies unite through their national organizations and tax their members to create a fund for mutual protection. The idea appealed to the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows, but, like all large bodies, they moved slowly, so slowly that they can hardly be said to have started. We would have the societies in the State wait no longer upon the action of the national bodies. Let the Grand Master of the Masons or Odd Fellows, or the Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias call a conference of the heads of the other societies and agree upon plans, to be submitted for the confirmation of the bodies over which they preside, for closer union.

Provisions might be made for a commission made up of representatives of each body participating; a light tax might be levied upon every member and expended as the commission should direct. So small a sum as fifty cents yearly from each member of the Negro fraternal societies in the State would in the first year, create a fund of \$5,000.00, more or less, which could be used in a legitimate way to protect our interests in the Legislature and to defend or prosecute any suit in the courts in which there would be at issue any question touching our civil or political liberty.

In the operation of any laws, The Advocate has no more to gain nor lose than any one else identified with the race. It does not put forward again the Friendly Society Movement because it hopes either to pose as a leader or for personal aggrandizement, but solely because it thinks it is performing a duty to suggest ways and means by which its clientele may protect itself on the enjoyment of constitutional rights.

## EXPOSING THEIR CLAWS.

If the Negro people of West Virginia want confirmation of the oft repeated statement in these columns that the Democratic party is hostile to their enjoyment of civil and political liberty, they will find it in the passage by the House of Delegates of the Carr fraternal society bill, the full text of which The Advocate printed last week.

The Democratic majority went beyond our worst predictions. We looked for the more radical of them to propose and support measures whose enactment would curtail our enjoyment of franchise rights and separate the races on the common carriers, but who would have supposed that they would seek to kill our fraternal societies?

The mere suggestion of such a thing either during the recent campaign or before the meeting of the Legislature would have met with derision. The man who expressed the belief that the candidates who pledged themselves to oppose "the passage of any laws which will not operate with equal fairness to both races", would vote to rob us of one of our most useful and cherished institutions, that man would have been incontinentally called a liar. Yet that is exactly what our Democratic friends did.

They proposed and supported a piece of legislation more iniquitous even than disfranchisement. By disfranchisement we would have been deprived of participation in the government of the state. That is bad enough. But the Carr fraternal society bill is worse. It would break up the strongest unions among us, put an end to our most fruitful efforts at self-help, and deprive us of property secured by years of toil and deprivations.

Is there, in the face of this, a Negro in the State, who will say, who even thinks the Negro ought to divide his vote, that he ought to support Democratic candidates? If there be such a one, may the Lord guide his feet aright, for he is either a knave of the deepest dye, or a fool who knows not his folly.

## THE COLORED ORPHANS HOME.

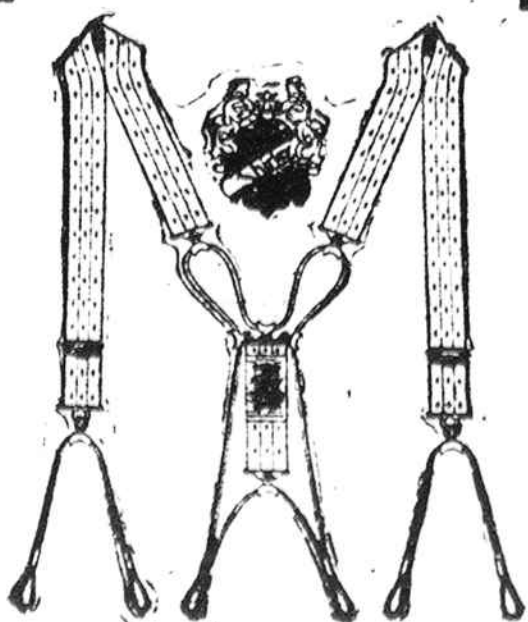
Now that the prospects are bright for the purchase and control by the State of The Colored Orphans' Home and Industrial school, near Huntington, The Advocate states clearly and emphatically that it will exert what little influence it has for the retention of the present incumbent, Rev. C. E. McGhee, as superintendent or whatever the head of the institution may be called.

In making this announcement we are influenced wholly by Rev. McGhee's services to the orphans of the State and the superior claim that arises therefrom to whatever honor and profit the change in control may bring about. As soon as a good salary is assured, without the privations and exertions which have been necessary heretofore to provide food and clothing for the children in the home, there will be a round baker's dozen and a few more applicants for the place which Rev. McGhee has created and filled most creditably. These are the ones The Advocate intends to assist in heading off. It thinks that if there was ever a man entitled to enjoy the fruits of his labor, that man is he who has traveled up, down and across the State begging funds to help those who can not help themselves.

Single-handed, for it was only at the eleventh hour that he received aid from any member of his race, Rev. McGhee has fought step by step to the passage of his bill. Alone, he secured the pledges of enough votes in the House to accomplish his desire, and interested a sufficient number of Senators to make his measure take precedence over others of more general import. He fought the fight and kept the faith, and more than any other, he deserves to wear the crown. This he will do in spite of the other claimants who may be confidently expected to babble up before the Governor's signature of approval becomes dry.

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## NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH.

There is a strong likeness between the Afro-American and the American-African though an ocean divides them. Each is supersensitive to a marked degree and resents any imputation, however well-founded, that he is not equal in all respects to any creature on the earth in the heavens above or the seas below.

When Dr. Washington said Negroes, referring to those in America, are a child race, a mighty roar of indignation was heard from the Lakes to the Gulf, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Child race! Not on the daguerreotype of your great grandfather! We are full grown, standing six feet in our socks, and brand as an infamous falsehood any statement to the contrary.

Over in Monrovia a few weeks ago, United Minister Crum expressed publicly the hope that Liberia would soon become a republic in fact as well as in name. Were the Liberians pleased? One would not think so who heard the howl let out by the government's official organ. Crum's remark was regarded by the Liberian Register as the acme of anathemas, an insult to a poor but proud people, and so forth and so on.

The truth was told in both instances cited above. The Negroes in America are a child race and Liberia is scarcely more than a name. Why rear and snort at the plain, unvarnished truth? The Afro-Americans knew Washington but voiced what they all think way down in their hearts, and the Liberians display dense ignorance in taking offense at Dr. Crum for hoping for a betterment of their condition. The criticism implied was well meant by both Dr. Washington and Dr. Crum. That it was misunderstood but confirms their statements.

The Negro people of West Virginia owe Rev. C. E. McGhee a debt which they can not easily repay. He alone is due the credit for the passage of the measure empowering the State to assume the control of the Colored Orphans' Home. With the State backing it, there is now no longer any question as to the institution's performance of all the duties for which it was founded.

There is a bill in the Kansas legislature providing a fine for any woman caught in public with dresses not below the patella. Why not United States language first and tell the women what patella is?

## Tortured for 15 Years.

by a cure-defying stomach trouble that baffled doctors, and resisted all remedies he tried, John W. Modders, of Moddersville, Mich., seemed doomed. He had to sell his farm and give up work. His neighbors said, "he can't live much longer." "Whatever I ate distressed me," he wrote, "till I tried Electric Bitters, which worked such wonders for me that I can now eat things I could not take for years. It's surely a grand remedy for stomach trouble." Just as good for the liver and kidneys. Every bottle guaranteed. Only 50c at all druggists. 2-2-4t

American churches are importing pastors from Europe and a Berlin hotel man is engaging New York Bartenders. Thus the balance of trade is preserved.

"Senator Lorimer suddenly begins to suspect that he is a goat". All the same, it looks as if he won't be able to butt in.

The good Senator Hanna did was mostly interfered with his bones, but Adams County, Ohio, shows that the evil he did lives after him and has been a thriving business.

Every time there is any new legislation suggested that has no "pork" in it, new varieties of both Democrats and Republicans seem to be created.

New Orleans still claims to be the "logical point" for the Panama Canal Exposition. But logic seems to have got the worst of it in the tussle with practical convenience.

The Washington Dispatch says that "the new Canadian reciprocity agreement will be treated by Congress like an ordinary bill." Help!

Paradoxically, it by no means follows that the corset-wearing man is a straight-laced man.

## LANG NO MATCH FOR SAM LANGFORD.

London, Feb. 21.—Bill Lang, who once held the championship of Australia was no match for Sam Langford, American colored pugilist in a schedule 20 round bout tonight. Langford won in the sixth round when Lang was disqualified but the contest could not have gone much longer as Lang was almost out when he committed the foul.

Six thousand spectators gathered at the Olympia to witness what they expected would be a long and fast fight and they showed disappointment when the contest ended so abruptly. After six fierce rounds, when Langford was down, the Australian in a dazed sort of way rushed at the American and struck him and immediately the referee proclaimed Langford the winner.

The saying "a good man will always bear a good little man" proved a fallacy for the Australian with all his natural advantages including an extra 52 pounds in weight was hopelessly outclassed by the American. Lang was all nerves. He seemed frightened and his disqualification was the best thing that could have happened for he was so groggy that he was bound to have been put out if he had not transgressed.

## STATE WILL CONTROL ORPHANS' HOME.

In spite of the opposition of Senator W. A. MacCorkle, the Senate yesterday passed the bill empowering the State to purchase and control the Colored Orphans' Home and Industrial School, near Huntington.

Speeches supporting the measure were delivered by Senators Hearne, Peterkin, Smith (of Cabell), Johnson, Kidd and Sutherland. French aided the opposition to no avail. The vote resulted in twenty-one for, and eight against.

You will always find it the cheapest at Morrison's Dept. Store.

## WASHINGTON TO SPEAK AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW.

Principal Booker T. Washington of the Tuskegee Institute has been invited by the pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church, one of the richest and most exclusive churches in New York City, to speak in a series of special meetings to be held on Sunday evenings during Lent in March and April. Others who will speak are President A. Lawrence Lowell, of Harvard University, Mr. Justice Hughes, of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey.

## NEW YORKERS URGE COLORED POLICEMEN.

New York, Feb. 22.—A largely attended meeting to urge that colored policemen, firemen and a regiment of State troops be provided for was held Sunday afternoon at the office of James C. Thomas, a leading undertaker of Harlem. The residents here are deeply interested about the project, and already several hundred dollars, including \$100 from Bert Williams, the comedian, have been subscribed for the campaign that will be waged. J. Frank Wheaton is the chairman of the movement.

## PLAN TO REBUILD MERCY HOSPITAL.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 23.—Arrangements are being made to rebuild the Mercy Hospital, which was gutted by fire last week. The damage amounted to about \$6,000, and Dr. R. F. Boyd had his automobile destroyed also. The hospital was founded by Dr. Boyd and is near the Meharry Medical College.

## "ANCESTRAL PROFE" LACKING.

So writes Oklahoma registration official in denying colored man the right to vote.

Muskogee, Okla., Feb. 22.—The federal grand jury, which was in session here a few days ago, found indictments against a number of white election officials, who denied colored men the right to register and vote in the last election.

As an example of the way in which the election law was enforced, three well known men of Boley, a colored town of 3,000, were denied the right to vote under the disfranchising law adopted last August.

One of these men, Mr. Henry Taylor, after meeting the educational test, asked the election official to write the reasons for his being denied the right to vote on the back of his affidavit.

The election official, who conducted the examination, showed his utter lack of education by writing on the back of the affidavit: "Refused for want of ancestral profe."

## WEDS TULANE PROFESSOR.

New York Feb. 22.—In the parlors of the Hotel Gotham a fashionable company assembled at noon today to witness the wedding of Miss Lucie Mayo-Smith, daughter of the late Professor Mayo-Smith of Columbia University, and Professor Ulrich B. Phillips of New Orleans. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Henry P. Smith of Meadville, Pa., an uncle of the bride. The couple will make their home in New Orleans, where Professor Phillips is head of the department of history of Tulane University.

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